

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-8, and 16-17 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3, 8, 16, and 17 are amended and Claim 2 is canceled without prejudice by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 16, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Kitsutaka (U.S. Patent 7,042,463), and Claims 2-8 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In view of this indication, independent Claims 1, 16, and 17 have been amended to recite the allowable subject matter of Claim 2. Accordingly, Claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice. Thus, it is believed that the outstanding rejection on the merits is overcome.

Applicants respectfully request entry of this amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 as the present amendment only cancels claims and amends the independent claims to recite allowable subject matter as suggested by the outstanding Office Action.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

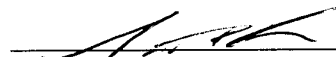
Respectfully submitted,

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